

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9916
AMEMBASSY LONDON
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: SENV TPHY FR US
SUBJ: TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT ON STRATOSPHERIC MONITORING

REF: STATE 091808

1. THE FRENCH ARE BASICALLY HAPPY TO CONTINUE THE TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT IN THE SAME MODE AS NOW EXISTS. THEY HAD APPARENTLY RECEIVED THE FEELING AT THE PAST LONDON MEETING THAT EITHER THE US AND/OR THE UK WISHED TO GO TO ANNUAL REPORTS AND TO BROADEN THE PARTICIPATION. THE FRENCH ARE HAPPY TO HAVE INFORMAL AND FLEXIBLE SIX-MONTH REPORTS; THEIR ONE CONCERN, WHICH WE SAID THE USG SHARED, IS NOT TO BE OBLIGED TO REPEAT THE EFFORTS REQUIRED TO CONCLUDE THE FIRST YEAR'S REPORT. THUS WHILE DATA MAY BE EXCHANGED AS DEVELOPED, ONE COULD CONCEIVE OF A SIX-MONTH REPORT SIMPLY LISTING THE WORK AND EXCHANGES HAVING TAKEN PLACE DURING THAT PERIOD AND NOTING INTENTIONS TO UNDERTAKE OTHER WORK AND EXCHANGES IN THE NEXT SIX-MONTH PERIOD.
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2. AS MENTIONED, THE FRENCH ARE PLEASED TO MAINTAIN THE TRILATERAL NATURE OF THE COOPERATION AS THEY ARE CERTAIN IF OTHER COUNTRIES WISH TO JOIN, THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM IN INCLUDING THEM IN SOME OR ALL OF THE COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES. THE FRENCH WERE RESPONDING TO WHAT THEY UNDERSTAND TO BE A US OR A UK INTEREST IN EXPANDING PARTICIPATION. THE FRENCH REASONED THAT

IF THE COOPERATION WAS TO BE OFFERED TO UNEP AS AN ON-GOING ACTIVITY INTO WHICH UNEP WOULD NEED TO PUT NO RESOURCES, THEN SUCH AN OFFER COULD BE MADE AT THE UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING IN MAY. IT COULD BE AGREED THEN THAT THE OFFER WOULD BE PASSED TO THE UNEP COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON OZONE LAYER WHICH COULD CONTACT PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTS TO DETERMINE THE INTEREST OF EACH IN JOINING THE TRILATERAL COOPERATION. THIS WOULD BE OF PERHAPS SOME POLITICAL BENEFIT TO UNEP ALTHOUGH WOULD REQUIRE CARE IN HOW IT WAS PRESENTED TO THE UNEP GENERAL COUNCIL AND THEREAFTER TO ITS COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON OZONE LAYER. IF THE US OR THE UK HAVE A GENUINE INTEREST IN EXPANDING PARTICIPATION THOUGH WISH NOT TO PROCEED THROUGH THE UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL, THEN IT WOULD BE PRACTICAL TO POSTPONE SUCH EFFORT AND DISCUSS MUTUAL INTEREST IN POSSIBLE EXPANSION OF THESE ACTIVITIES AT THE WMO JUNE MEETING IN TORONTO. IF THE US AND THE UK DO NOT HAVE FIRM INTEREST IN EXPANDING THE COOPERATION, THEN THE FRENCH ARE HAPPY TO DROP THE MATTER.

3. IF THERE IS TRILATERAL AGREEMENT THAT WE MAY MAINTAIN THE SIX-MONTH REPORTS ON AN INFORMAL AND FLEXIBLE BASIS, THERE WOULD BE NO NEED FOR ANY MINUTE OR OTHER WRITTEN DOCUMENT.

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4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY LONDON'S EVALUATION OF BRITISH VIEWS ON THESE TOPICS AND THEREAFTER ANY FURTHER WASHINGTON VIEWS BY TELEGRAM. SHOULD A TORONTO MEETING APPEAR USEFUL, WE RECOMMEND THAT ITS SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES BE WELL UNDERSTOOD BEFORE HAND.
HARTMAN

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